

INTERNATIONAL AGENDA

Florida Department of State ♦ Sandra B. Mortham, Secretary of State ♦ Office of International Relations ♦ June 1998

Sister Cities '98 International Conference

The Annual Sister Cities International Conference will be held July 30th - August 1st at the Fontainebleau Hilton Resort in Miami. The theme of this year's conference is "A Challenge for the New Millennium." Featured keynote speakers include: His Excellency Carlos Saul Menem, President of Argentina; Ismail Serageldin, Vice President of The World Bank; Honorable Alex Penelas, Mayor of Miami-Dade County; Honorable Jerry Abramson, Mayor of Louisville, Kentucky; and Clifton Taulbert, Pulitzer Prize nominated author.

For information on the conference, contact Sister Cities International at (703) 836-3535.

New Sister City for Daytona Beach

Daytona Beach welcomed a delegation of 12 people from their new sister city in Bayonne, France last month. The official ceremony formalizing the partnership between the two cities was held May 21st, with Daytona Beach Mayor Bud Asher signing an agreement with the Mayors of Bayonne.

In addition, a delegation of 16 people from Daytona Beach

recently visited their other sister city in Campeche, Mexico.

International Resource Tool in the Works

An International Resource Directory will be available soon to provide helpful information for entry into the Northeast Florida international business scene. The directory, compiled by the Jacksonville Economic Development Commission, will be a valuable tool for networking, business development, research and other components for doing business in the global arena.

For information on how to receive a copy of this directory, contact the Jacksonville Economic Development Commission at (904) 630-1059.

International Leaders Honored

The International Relations Marketing and Development Commission (IRMDC), a division of the Jacksonville Economic Development Commission, recently presented awards.

Hy Kliman and Jane Fleetwood received awards for their service to the IRMDC since 1989, and Eric Smith received the Global Vision Award for his efforts to increase international trade opportunities.

Welcome New Consuls to Florida

Secretary of State Sandra Mortham and the Office of International Relations would like to welcome two new consuls to Florida. Honorary Consul Panos Kelalis, representing Cyprus, now has an office in Jacksonville. Honorary Consul Blanka Rosentiel, representing Poland, is now located in Miami.

Florida's ever expanding Consular Corps currently hosts 94 consular missions representing 69 nations.

Vietnam Ambassador Honored

Florida State University President Sandy D'Alemberte recently hosted a reception at the College of Law Rotunda for Honorable Pete Peterson, Ambassador to Vietnam. As part of the Florida Southeast Asia Initiative, the new mission in Vietnam is expected to increase Florida's presence and commitment in Vietnam.

Travel Advisory

We have been receiving calls from consul offices seeking information on the current fires in Florida, and how they affect potential foreign tourists. Contact: http://headlines.yahoo.com/Full_Coverage/US/Florida_Fires/.